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## No. LXX.

*Account of* CHRYSTALLIZED BASALTES *found in Penn-*  
*sylvania—By* THOMAS P. SMITH.

Read, Jan. 18, 1799. **T**HE first place at which I found these basaltes was on the Conewaga hills, east of the Susquehanna and about half a mile to the north of Elizabeth-town. They are here to be found in considerable quantities, both chrystallized and amorphous—The chrystals are generally tetrahedral and of a very fine grain. There are great masses of it lying about amorphous, but it generally has a very strong apparent tendency to chrystallize.—As I travelled in the stage I had not an opportunity of examining this place as minutely as I could have wished. It is I think well worthy the attention of a minerallurgist whose time will permit and talents enable him to explore it accurately.

On my return from Northumberland by a different rout, I again found them at Campbell's town; they are here evidently a lateral branch of the Conewaga hills, and are scattered on the surface in the greatest profusion.

Soon after this I met with them on recrossing the Conewaga hills at Grubb's mines: as I now travelled in a private carriage, I had a much better opportunity of examining this part than near Elizabeth-town. At the foot of these hills Dr. Barton found a great quantity of regularly chrystallized *granite*, the predominate figure tetrahedral, higher up the chrystallized basaltes appeared; and what in my opinion is a strong corroborating proof of their Neptunian origin, they were interspersed with large masses of *brechia* composed of *silicious* pebbles evidently rounded by friction imbedded in the red free-stone of our mountains.

From

From these facts I am induced to believe, that if this chain of hills was accurately explored, it would be found to abound in its whole extent in chrySTALLIZED *basaltes*, and in this opinion I am still further confirmed from having observed the strong tendency the *whin*, as it is commonly called, has to assume a regular figure on a spur of these hills I crossed in going from Lancaster to Columbia.

*Observations*